DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH

32

GOTHAM RESISTANCE FINALE

GREEN ARROW™

DARK NIGHTS METAL TIE-IN

WITNESS THE WRATH OF THE BATMAN™ WHO LAUGHS!

PERCY WILLIAMSON
FERREYRA

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM DEC 2017

"If reading this now, whether I am alive or dead, you will know truth."

RORSCHACH

A TWELVE ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

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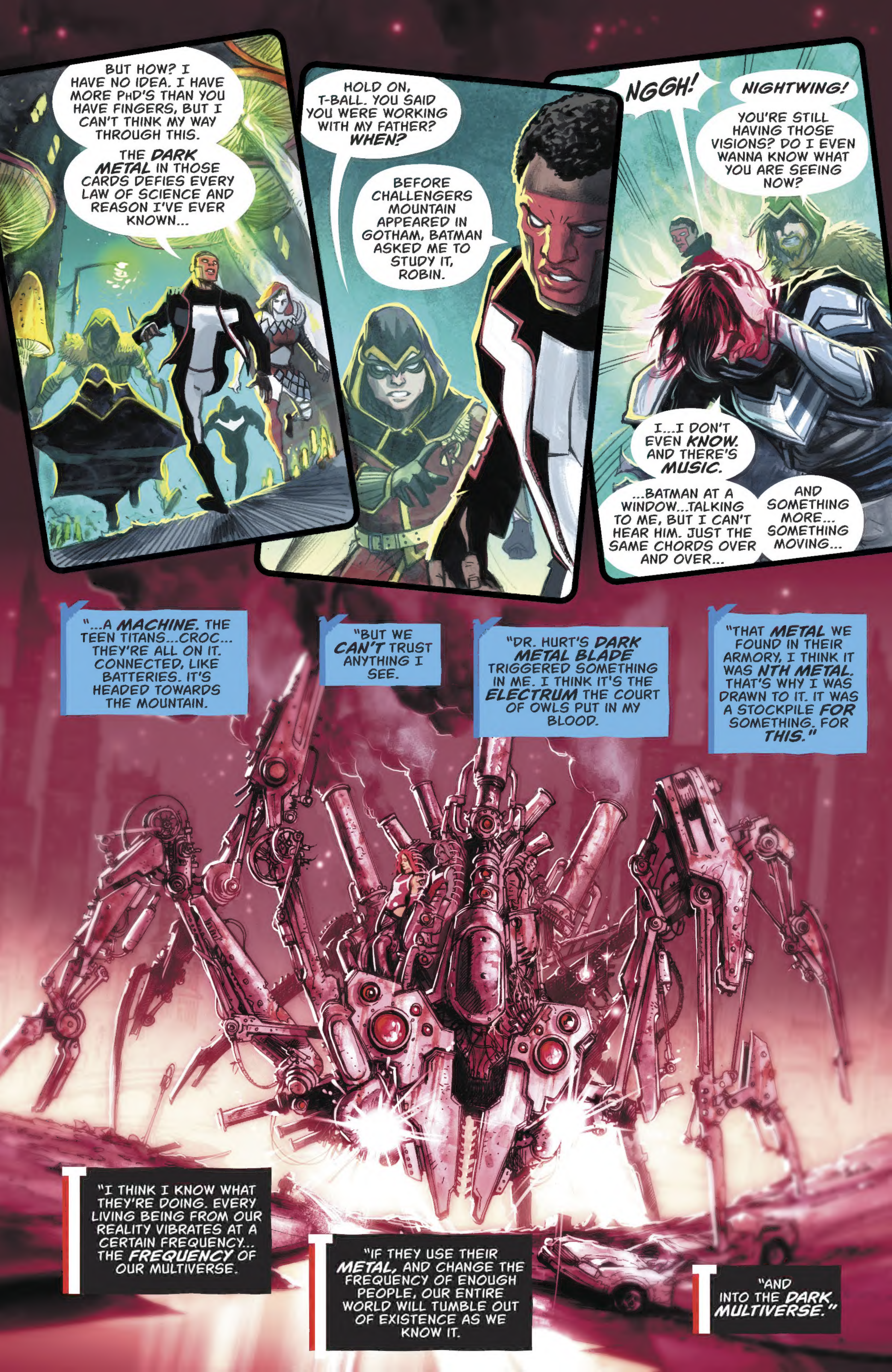
I STILL REMEMBER MAKING MY FIRST COMPASS ON THE ISLAND.
COBBLED TOGETHER WITH TWIGS, STRING, SHRAPNEL AND A HALF-REMEMBERED PASSAGE FROM A BOY SCOUT MANUAL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE SHIPWRECK, I HAD DIRECTION.
WONDERLAND BORDERING THE SIXTH RING OF GOTHAM.
NIGHTWING, WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING! THAT DARK ROBIN ISN'T TOO FAR BEHIND US!
WHAT WE NEED IS A PLACE TO REGROUP THAT'S NOT FULL OF 'ROIDED-OUT GOTHAM VILLAINS. MR. TERRIFIC?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS, BUT I KNEW WHERE TO GO. THE ARROW WAS POINTING DUE NORTH.
ANOTHER RABBIT HOLE! QUICK, FOLLOW ME!
BUT HERE, NOW IN GOTHAM, THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. THIS CITY DEFIES ANY SENSE OF DIRECTION, AND I KNEW IF I HAD THAT OLD COMPASS WITH ME NOW...
IT WOULD BE SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL.
WHAT'S THE POINT, MR. TERRIFIC? WE'RE GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES HERE.
YOU NEED TO TELL US WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S WORSE THAN IT SEEMS, GREEN ARROW.
CAN'T BE LATE!
BEFORE ALL OF THIS INSANITY STARTED... BATMAN TASKED ME WITH INVESTIGATING AN UNKNOWN REGION BEYOND THE KNOWN MULTIVERSE. HE KNEW SOMETHING WAS COMING.
YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED THESE CARDS ON YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE RINGED MAZE OF GOTHAM.
THE METAL THEY'RE MADE FROM EMITS AN INCOMPARABLE ENERGY...THEY ARE WHAT HAS CHANGED GOTHAM...

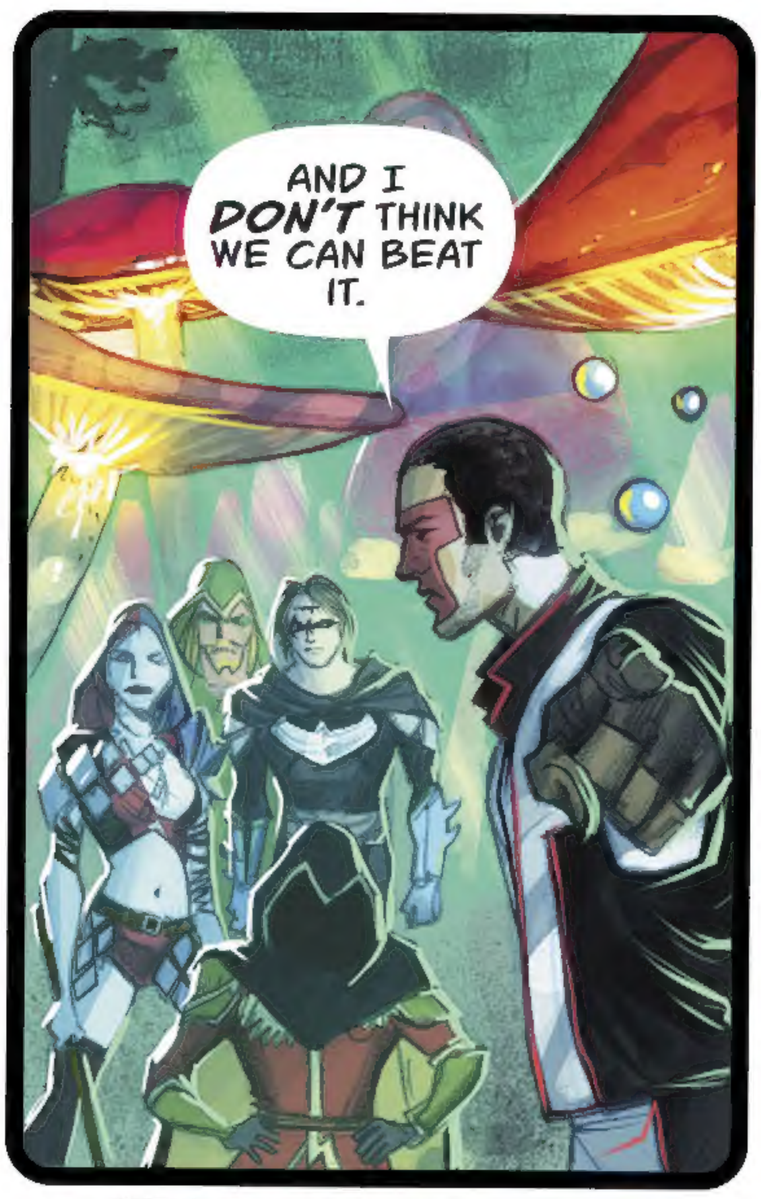
THE FINDER
THE MEETING
THE GIFT
THE TRANSFORMATION
THE WONDER
THE LAND
"LOOK. I'VE ONLY CAUGHT GLIMPSES OF THEM, THROUGH MY T-SPHERES, BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THERE ARE SEVEN OF THESE CREATURES.
"TWISTED, DEPRAVED. VERSIONS OF THE BATMAN WE KNOW AND LOVE. AND THE ONE RUNNING THE SHOW IS THE MOST FRIGHTENING OF THEM ALL.
"THEY CALL HIM THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS. TURNED GOTHAM INTO THIS NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE, WITH THE HELP OF BATMAN'S GREATEST ROGUES...
"HE PRESENTED EACH WITH A CARD... AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-CREATE GOTHAM IN THEIR IMAGE.
"OF COURSE, THEY ALL TOOK HIM UP ON THE OFFER...
"AND SO GOTHAM WARPED INTO A MAZE OF NIGHTMARES--WITH CHALLENGERS MOUNTAIN SPIKING FROM ITS CENTER.
"IT SEEMS TO ACT LIKE A MONSTROUS ANTENNA, A NEXUS OF DARK ENERGY.
"WHAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT IT'S SCIENCE. NOT MAGIC. THEY'RE REWRITING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS IN GOTHAM CITY FROM THE GROUND UP."


BUT HOW? I HAVE NO IDEA. I HAVE MORE PhD'S THAN YOU HAVE FINGERS, BUT I CAN'T THINK MY WAY THROUGH THIS.
THE DARK METAL IN THOSE CARDS DEFIES EVERY LAW OF SCIENCE AND REASON I'VE EVER KNOWN...
HOLD ON, T-BALL. YOU SAID YOU WERE WORKING WITH MY FATHER? WHEN?
BEFORE CHALLENGERS MOUNTAIN APPEARED IN GOTHAM, BATMAN ASKED ME TO STUDY IT, ROBIN.
NGGH!
NIGHTWING!
YOU'RE STILL HAVING THOSE VISIONS? DO I EVEN WANNA KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SEEING NOW?
I...I DON'T EVEN KNOW. AND THERE'S MUSIC.
...BATMAN AT A WINDOW...TALKING TO ME, BUT I CAN'T HEAR HIM. JUST THE SAME CHORDS OVER AND OVER...
AND SOMETHING MORE... SOMETHING MOVING...
"...A MACHINE. THE TEEN TITANS...CROC... THEY'RE ALL ON IT. CONNECTED, LIKE BATTERIES. IT'S HEADED TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN.
"BUT WE CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING I SEE.
"DR. HURT'S DARK METAL BLADE TRIGGERED SOMETHING IN ME. I THINK IT'S THE ELECTRUM THE COURT OF OWLS PUT IN MY BLOOD.
"THAT METAL WE FOUND IN THEIR ARMORY, I THINK IT WAS NTH METAL. THAT'S WHY I WAS DRAWN TO IT. IT WAS A STOCKPILE FOR SOMETHING. FOR THIS."
"I THINK I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING. EVERY LIVING BEING FROM OUR REALITY VIBRATES AT A CERTAIN FREQUENCY... THE FREQUENCY OF OUR MULTIVERSE.
"IF THEY USE THEIR METAL, AND CHANGE THE FREQUENCY OF ENOUGH PEOPLE, OUR ENTIRE WORLD WILL TUMBLE OUT OF EXISTENCE AS WE KNOW IT.
"AND INTO THE DARK MULTIVERSE."

IT'S ALREADY STARTED, NIGHTWING. THE MOUNTAIN AT THE HEART OF THE CITY, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF BODIES PLANTED IN IT...ATTACHED TO IT.. CONSUMED BY IT.

IT'S LIKE A HIVE. A HIDEOUS GARDEN. IF THE TEEN TITANS AND HARLEY'S SQUAD ARE BEING TAKEN THERE?
THEN WE'VE ALREADY LOST THEM.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEN HOW THE HELL DO WE STOP THEM? HOW DO WE GET GOTHAM CITY BACK?
I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE MORE THAN FAITH.


AND I DON'T THINK WE CAN BEAT IT.

ON THAT HAPPY NOTE, I SAY WE SKEDADDLE AND GIVE WALLER A RING.
LET HER SEND SOME OTHER LUCKY INMATES IN HERE TO FINISH THE MISSION.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, HARLEY. WE'VE LOST CHILDREN TO THE MOUNTAIN.

THEY ARE NOT CHILDREN.
THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!

I LED THEM HERE.
I WON'T LEAVE THEM HERE WITH THAT PSYCHOTIC PERVERSION OF ME.

I KNOW WHAT THEY THINK. WHAT YOU ALL MUST THINK. THAT I'M THIS SELFISH KID, JUST LASHING OUT AT MY FATHER.
I'M NOT GOING TO PROVE THEM RIGHT BY RUNNING OUT ON THEM.
I'M WITH YOU, KID. BUT WE NEED A PLAN.

IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND, LEWIS CARROLL SAYS, "IMAGINATION IS THE ONLY WEAPON IN THE WAR AGAINST REALITY."
THE ROGUES HAVE IMAGINED THEIR REALMS. LET'S IMAGINE THEIR DESTRUCTION.
AND I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO DO IT...

...WITH YOUR HELP.
IF MY FATHER IS TRULY GONE, THEN IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE THIS CITY. UP TO US.
I ALREADY ABANDONED ONE TEAM. I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN.
WHEN BATMAN ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER ROBIN AND KEEP HIM SAFE...
...IT WAS CLEAR ENOUGH THAT THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE DIDN'T KNOW A DAMN THING ABOUT HIS OWN SON.
BUT I SPEAK TEENAGER.
AND NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, ALL THEY WANT IS THE ILLUSION OF BEING IN CHARGE...WHILE HAVING A SUPPORT SYSTEM TO FALL BACK ON.
ROBIN WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE HIS OLD MAN, BUT IT'S ONLY NOW THAT HE UNDERSTANDS....
BATS DID MORE THAN BUILD TEAMS... HE WORKED WITH THEM.
WE'RE WITH YOU, KID. WHAT'S OUR MISSION?
SIMPLE. STOP THAT MACHINE. GET OUR FRIENDS. SAVE OUR CITY. KICK IN THE FACE WHATEVER GETS IN OUR WAY.
NOW YER TALKIN', KID. WE'RE THE GOTHAM RESISTANCE.

LATER.

NIGHTWING WAS RIGHT. HOLY CRAP. ARE THEY...ARE THEY STILL ALIVE?

YES, FOR NOW, GREEN ARROW. IF I CAN GET ON THAT THING, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FREE THEM.

THEN LET'S WAIT FOR AN OPENING AND MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.

THIS IS AS CLOSE AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET. REMEMBER THAT THE MOUNTAIN IS LIKE AN ANTENNA FOR DARK ENERGY.

THE CLOSER YOU GET, THE MORE YOU GET *LOST* IN YOUR OWN MIND.

KRAK

YA AIN'T EVER LAYIN' A HAND ON ME, ARNOLD!

MY MIND *CAN'T* BE GUARDED, MR. T. IT ESCAPED ITS PADDED CELL A *LONG* TIME AGO.

MAYBE THAT WILL GIVE YOU AN *ADVANTAGE,* HARLEY.

LIKE *CRAZY* CANCELS OUT *CRAZY?* THAT'S SOME MATH I CAN GET BEHIND.

HOW MANY SHOTS DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

I'M RUNNING LOW. JUST THREE PLUS THE ONE FROM THE *OWLS' ARMORY.*

SO BE CAREFUL. I WON'T HAVE TOO MANY BOLTS TO BACK YOU UP ONCE WE RUN FOR IT.

I WAS TRAINED BY THE *LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS* AND AM MORE OF A MASTER OF THE BOW AND ARROW THAN *YOU* ARE.

R "I JUST PREFER A MORE HANDS-ON APPROACH."

BOOM
THIS IS OUR OPENING! GO!
MOVE FAST! OUR OBJECTIVE: STOP THE MACHINE BEFORE IT REACHES THE MOUNTAIN!
SURE, EASY FOR THE DECATHLON RUNNER TO SAY.
HI THERE.
THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU AND I HAD A LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART.
GET AWAY FROM ROBIN, YOU MONSTER!!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU HURT HIM.
WELL, THEN I'M SORRY TO SAY YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE.
BANE'S HOUSE OF PAIN. THE SIXTH RING OF GOTHAM.
WELCOME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
LET'S GET READY TO RUUUUMMMBLE!!

IT'S SMASH TIME!
HARLEY-- DON'T!
MY T-SPHERE SCANS ARE TELLING ME THAT TASK FORCE X AND THE TEEN TITANS ARE CONNECTED TO THE MACHINE'S DARK ENERGIES.
IF WE DESTROY THE MACHINE, WE COULD KILL THEM.
YOU SURE ARE CAUTIOUS FOR SOMEBODY WHO'S GOT BALLS OF STEEL, MR. T...
CROC POT! HOW DO I GET YOU DOWN FROM THERE, SWEETIE?
YOU DON'T.
CROC HAS SEEN THINGS. TERRIBLE THINGS. HE SHOWED CROC.
YOU MUST GO, HARLEY... YOU MUST RUN!
TELL WALLER... TO BLOW US UP...BLOW IT ALL UP.
PLEASE.
BEFORE THE BAT-THING COMES, BEFORE BARBATOS SHOWS YOU...
OH NO... THAT'S HIS MUSIC...THE OTHER...

"...THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS."
SEE, OUT OF ALL THE REALMS, THIS ONE MIGHT BE MY FAVORITE...
AT LEAST BANE IS A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS. AM I RIGHT, DR. QUINN?
SKREEECH
MISTAH... B?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I'VE MISSED YOU...
...SEE ON MY WORLD, YOU AND I WE ACTUALLY RIDE OFF TOGETHER... IN THE END.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, RAVEN?
HARLEY QUINN, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
THIS BATMAN. HE'S EMPTY OF ALL EMOTIONS EXCEPT EVIL!
YOU MUST RUN! GO!
HOOK HER UP WITH THE REST.
HEY, WAIT! NO! GET YOUR GIMPS OFFA ME!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
THAT'S BECAUSE I NEVER COULD FIND A GOOD THERAPIST TO TALK TO!
HOW ABOUT IT, DR. QUINN?
YOU WILLING TO MAKE ME ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS?
I'VE HAD THIS DREAM, BUT...THIS AIN'T A DREAM, IS IT?
NO, HARLEY, IT'S JUST... MADNESS.
YOU'VE ALWAYS LOVED MADNESS, HAVEN'T YOU, BABY?
I...
I'VE ENJOYED WATCHING YOU THESE LAST FEW DAYS, YOU KNOW?
GATHERING MY CARDS, LIKE THEY COULD BE USED AGAINST ME.
WE WON'T LET YOU DO THIS! YOU HEAR ME?
AND THE GREAT MR. TERRIFIC FINALLY SHOWS HIMSELF.
FFFSSSFF
IT'S ABOUT TO BECOME VERY CLEAR NOW, MICHAEL.
FINDING ALLIES TO FIGHT A WAR THAT YOU DON'T REALIZE YOU'VE ALREADY LOST.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BROTHER...
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
I'M WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, WHAT YOU COULD BE! IF YOU'D STOP WORRYING ABOUT FALSE FRIENDS, FALSE FAMILY...
SHUT UP! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
AND THIS FIGHT GETS DIRTY!
ROBIN, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S-- ARGH!
I'M TELLING HIM THE TRUTH! THE HARD THINGS YOU NEVER WILL, DICK.
I KEEP HITTING HIM...
BECAUSE ON MY WORLD, DAMIAN, THEY ALL TURN ON OUR FATHER, THEY TRY TO KILL HIM! AND THEY MIGHT HAVE, IF NOT FOR ME!
...BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL ANYTHING!
THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST SHOT FOR ALL OF US.
DIE, YOU TRAITOR! DIEEE!!
YOUR MIND'S SHORT-CIRCUITING. CONCENTRATE, OLLIE.
COULD IT BE...THE DEATH OF NIGHTWING?!
NO ROOM FOR DOUBT. FOCUS.
I PROMISED BRUCE. I PROMISED I'D PROTECT ROBIN FROM GOTHAM...
...AND FROM HIS WORST IMPULSES.
DO IT!
NOW!
TWANG
HISSSSS!!!

GAH!
THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
DAMIAN! NO!
I'M SO SORRY, BRUCE. I FAILED YOU.
NO...WHAT... WHAT HAVE I DONE?

HA HA HA HA HA HA
SEE?! THEY ALL TURN ON YOU, BROTHER! THEY DON'T TRUST FATHER, THEY DON'T TRUST YOU, THEY NEVER DID!
AND NOW THAT YOU SEE...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU NOW, BEFORE YOU BLEED OUT...
UNH...
SEE, THE DARK MULTIVERSE, IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE WHERE YOUR WORST FEARS LIVE. IT'S ALSO WHERE YOUR GREATEST HOPES COME TO LIFE.
SO HERE'S THE THING NO ONE WANTS TO TELL YOU, BUT I WILL.
THE DARK KNIGHTS. THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS. ME? THEY CALL US FATHER'S GREATEST FEARS...BUT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE, BROTHER.
SHUT UP, YOU MONSTER!
...NO...
NO! BECAUSE IT'S TRUE AND HE KNOWS IT!
LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF, BROTHER! YOU WANT HIS LOVE, JUST LIKE I DID...YOU WANT TO BE BESIDE HIM...
...WELL HEAR ME WHEN I SAY THAT I HAVE NEVER FELT AS LOVED, NEVER FELT LESS ALONE, LESS UNCERTAIN, THAN I DO NOW!
NEVER! THE TRUTH IS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY WHOLE DAMN LIFE, I FEEL HAPPY! AND YOU CAN TOO...
STOP IT! STOP!
SEE, YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE, JUST LIKE I DID! HA! YOU AND I, WE'RE CONNECTED!
YES...WE ARE CONNECTED...BY BLOOD....

...AND METAL!
AGGHH!
BBBZZTT-BOOM
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO....
THE BATTLE IS OVER!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO FIGHT YOU, LITTLE BATS!
OH THE BATTLE IS JUST BEGINNING BANE
NOW WATCH CLOSELY MR BERRIES I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THOSE CARDS CAN DO

MY GOD... LOOK AT THEM. THEY'RE ALL... THEY'RE ALL HIM.

IS THAT... CYBORG?! WHAT THE HELL HAVE THEY DONE TO HIM?!

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THEY'RE STANDING BETWEEN US AND THE MACHINE...

LOOK AT THIS! SO MANY BATS TO BREAK!

FEEL IT?! ALL THE LITTLE BONES ABOUT CRACK, THE BLOOD ABOUT SPILL!!

ROBIN! GREEN ARROW! WE NEED TO ABORT THE MISSION! RUN! NOW!

!RRRRR

RUN WHERE? THOUGHT BECAUSE NOW YOU'RE TRAPPED IN HERE AT THE CENTER OF THE MAZE WITH ALL OF US RIGHT WHERE WE WANTED YOU ALL FROM THE START.

SEE I WILL PLAN LIKE I DID IN MY OLD LIFE. I JUST DON'T PLAY DETECTIVE OR HERO ANYMORE. BECAUSE I FINALLY SAW THE TRUTH WHICH IS THAT SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS FOR PURPOSE IN THE END LEADS YOU TO ONE PLACE.

THE DARK WHICH IS WHERE YOU ARE. ARE RIGHT NOW.

NO!

STAY BACK, NIGHTMARES OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE!
THERE'S THE FATE I ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN.
DAMIAN, THIS IS OUR RIDE OUT OF THIS HELL HOLE!
NO!
MY FRIENDS ARE HERE BECAUSE OF ME! I WON'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND!
IF YOU STAY, YOU WILL DIE, SON OF THE BATMAN.
I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY GOT MY SIGNAL, DOCTOR!
THAT IS NOT YOUR DESTINY.
DAMIAN, PLEASE! WE'LL SAVE THEM, BUT WE NEED TO GO! FIGHT ANOTHER DAY, SON!
...
ALL RIGHT, BUT WE'RE COMING BACK FOR YOU! YOU HEAR ME?!!

"WE'LL COME BACK!"

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND. I WISH WE HAD TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES...

BUT THE *FUTURE OF THE WORLD* HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

AND EVEN MY TOWER IS NOT SAFE FROM *BARBATOS'S* DARK INFLUENCE.

ZATANNA HAS ARRANGED FOR A SECRET *RENDEZVOUS* ELSEWHERE, AND THE PARTIES ARE ASSEMBLING NOW.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE NEEDS TO KNOW THE DATA MY T-SPHERES COLLECTED FROM CHALLENGERS MOUNTAIN BEFORE OUR NEXT MOVE.

IS *PLASTIC MAN...?*

HIS EGG IS *SAFE,* MISTER TERRIFIC.

AHHH!

I FAILED... I FAILED MY FATHER.

KRAK!

HERE, TAKE IT.

WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW? DOUBT. HATE. FEAR. I FEEL IT, TOO.

WE ALL FEEL IT! WE LOST OUR TEAMS. HARLEY, CROC.

WE LOST GOTHAM!

KRAK

NO, *I* LOST IT. I TOOK US IN THERE...IT'S MY FAULT. I TOOK LEAD AND--

STOP IT.

YES, YOU LEAD US THROUGH THE MAZE, MADNESS, BATTLE...ALL OF IT, AND YOU MIGHT HAVE WAVERED, BUT IN THE END YOU KEPT US FOCUSED ON OUR TARGET.

FINDING A WAY TO SAVE THE CITY, AND THE WORLD FROM EVIL. AND THAT'S NOT A LOSS.

NOT A LOSS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! *WE LOST EVERYTHING!*

NO, WE DIDN'T. BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING I LEARNED AS GREEN ARROW, IT'S THAT SOMETIMES, IF YOUR *AIM* IS TRUE, YOU CAN LOSE A BATTLE, BUT GAIN *DIRECTION* FOR THE WAR.

YOU SAW WHAT THAT ARROW DID TO THE DARK ROBIN. IT WAS THE *NTH METAL,* DAMIAN. DON'T YOU SEE?

THOSE THINGS MIGHT HAVE WON THIS ROUND, BUT BECAUSE OF YOU...

GOTHAM RESISTANCE FINALE

BENJAMIN PERCY & JOSHUA WILLIAMSON SCRIPT
JUAN FERREYRA ART
DERON BENNETT LETTERS
STJEPAN SEJIC COVER
MIKE GRELL VARIANT COVER

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EDDIE BERGANZA GROUP EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER, GREG CAPULLO & JAMES TYNION IV

FROM VISIONARY WRITER/ARTIST

SEAN MURPHY

BATMAN
WHITE KNIGHT

In a world where the Dark Knight has gone too far,
The Joker must save Gotham City.

ARKHAM ASYLUM

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DC

A 7-Issue Limited Series
OCTOBER

FACE IT.
THE GREATEST VILLAIN...
CRACK!
...IN GOTHAM CITY...
CRACK!
...IS YOU!
STOP! TALKING!
CRACK!

I SEE GOTHAM MORE CLEARLY THAN ANY OF YOU...
...BUT YOU WON'T ADMIT IT.
TO YOU, I'M JUST A PSYCHO IN MAKEUP.
YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO COME HERE TONIGHT...
...TO PROVE IT TO YOU...
...WITH THESE.
IF I CAN GET BETTER, I CAN GET THIS CITY BACK ON TRACK...
...FINALLY SHOW YOU...
...THAT YOU NEED ME.
FINE.

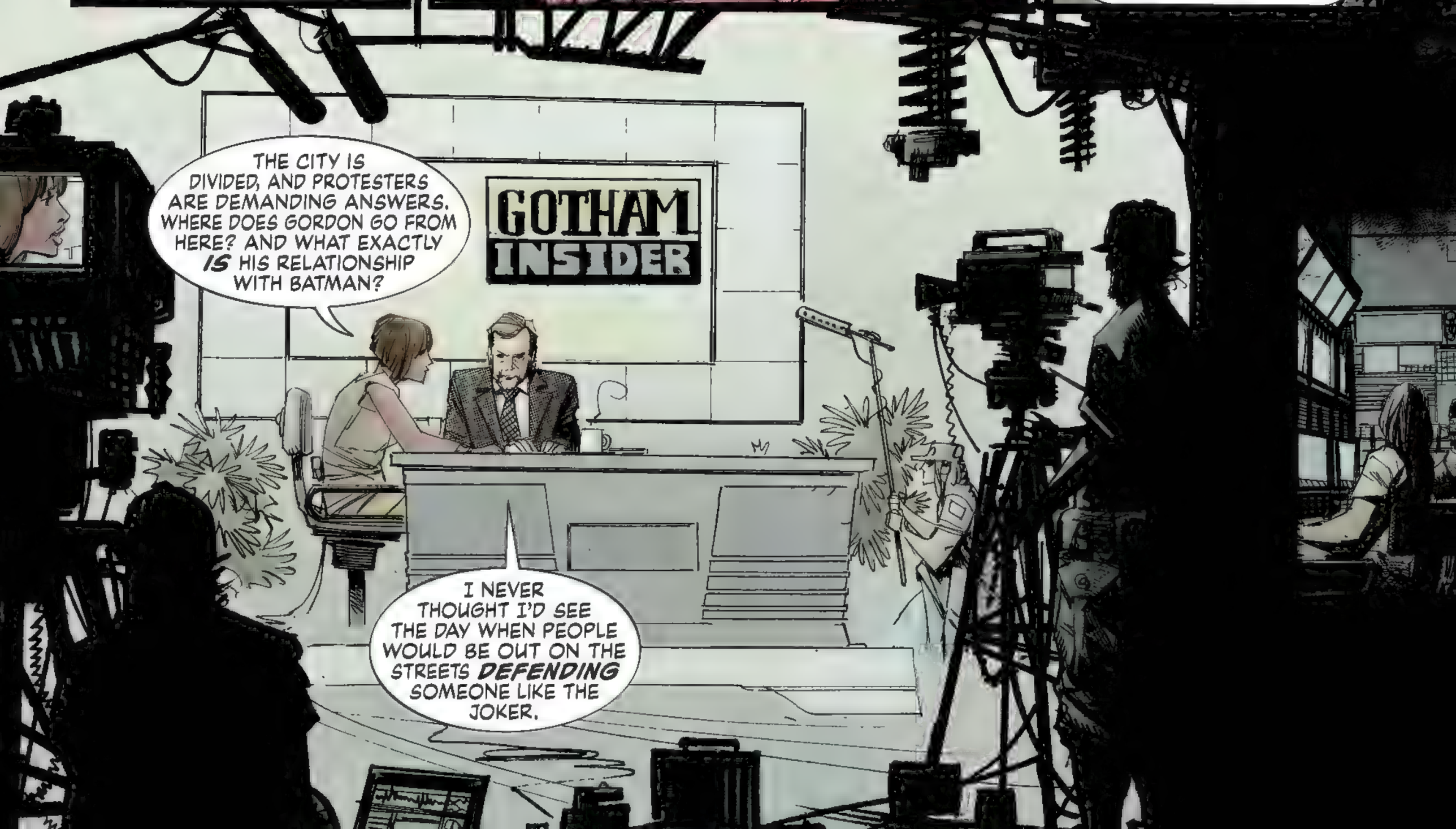
RECORD
YOU WANT TO GET BETTER?
THEN OPEN UP!
:GLCKH:
OH NO...
CHRIST...
BRUCE, DON'T...
:ACKKK: ...CAN'T...
...BREATHE...
SAVE
POLICE LINE

TONIGHT WE'RE DISCUSSING THE BATGATE SCANDAL: STUNNING FOOTAGE OF BATMAN'S ASSAULT ON THE JOKER HAS GONE VIRAL...
...CAUSING MANY TO QUESTION THE GCPD AND THE DARK KNIGHT'S METHODS.
GOTHAM INSIDER
THANK GOD THEY CAUGHT HIM.

THE POLICE HAVE ALWAYS DENIED HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DARK KNIGHT. GORDON'S NEVER OFFICIALLY ADMITTED THAT HE EVEN EXISTS, AND NOW WE HAVE HIM ON CAMERA STANDING BY WHILE BATMAN VICIOUSLY ATTACKS THE JOKER.
SO WHAT?! THE JOKER IS GOTHAM'S GREATEST VILLAIN, A PSYCHOPATH WITH A LONG HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, AND A KNACK FOR MANIPULATING THE SYSTEM--EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

BUT THE GCPD HAS NEVER SUCCESSFULLY CONVICTED HIM OF ANYTHING MORE THAN ARMED ROBBERY, DESPITE HIS PERCEIVED REPUTATION.
THE COPS NEED OUR SUPPORT, MAGGIE. GOTHAM IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SUPER-CRIMINALS. I DON'T CARE WHAT IS AND ISN'T LEGAL--THIS CITY NEEDS BATMAN.

YES, BUT WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY? IF THE POLICE WON'T STOP BATMAN FROM CROSSING THE LINE, THEN WHO WILL? THE OPTICS ON THIS ARE TERRIBLE, AND IT ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE FOR THE GCPD WHO ARE ALREADY PLAGUED WITH ACCUSATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND POLICE BRUTALITY.
THAT WAS THE PREVIOUS COMMISSIONER--GORDON HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO OVERTURN PUBLIC OPINION. THE SJWS NEED TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE!


THE CITY IS DIVIDED, AND PROTESTERS ARE DEMANDING ANSWERS. WHERE DOES GORDON GO FROM HERE? AND WHAT EXACTLY IS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BATMAN?
GOTHAM INSIDER
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN PEOPLE WOULD BE OUT ON THE STREETS DEFENDING SOMEONE LIKE THE JOKER.

BATMAN'S A MANIAC. GLAD PEOPLE ARE ***FINALLY*** STARTING TO SEE IT.

BATMAN HAS SAVED THE LIVES OF ***DOZENS OF COPS,*** BULLOCK. EVEN YOURS!

ALLOWING A WEIRDO TO FIGHT CRIME IN HIS ***UNDERWEAR***-- WHAT KIND OF CITY LETS THAT HAPPEN?

THE ***GCPD*** HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BATMAN, REMEMBER? FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'RE NOT EVEN ***HAVING*** THIS CONVERSATION.

NO OFFENSE, COMMISSIONER, BUT THAT'S ***BULLSHIT.***

I WANTED TO ***ARREST*** BATMAN, BUT YOU WANTED TO SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING WHILE HE BEAT NAPIER UNCONSCIOUS. THAT LOOPHOLE ISN'T GOING TO WORK ANYMORE.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

THE JOKER'S RIGHT: IF BATMAN HAD BEEN WEARING A BADGE, YOU'D CHARGE HIM WITH ***ASSAULT!***

HOW IS HE?

NOT SURE YET. HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM BACK TO ARKHAM.

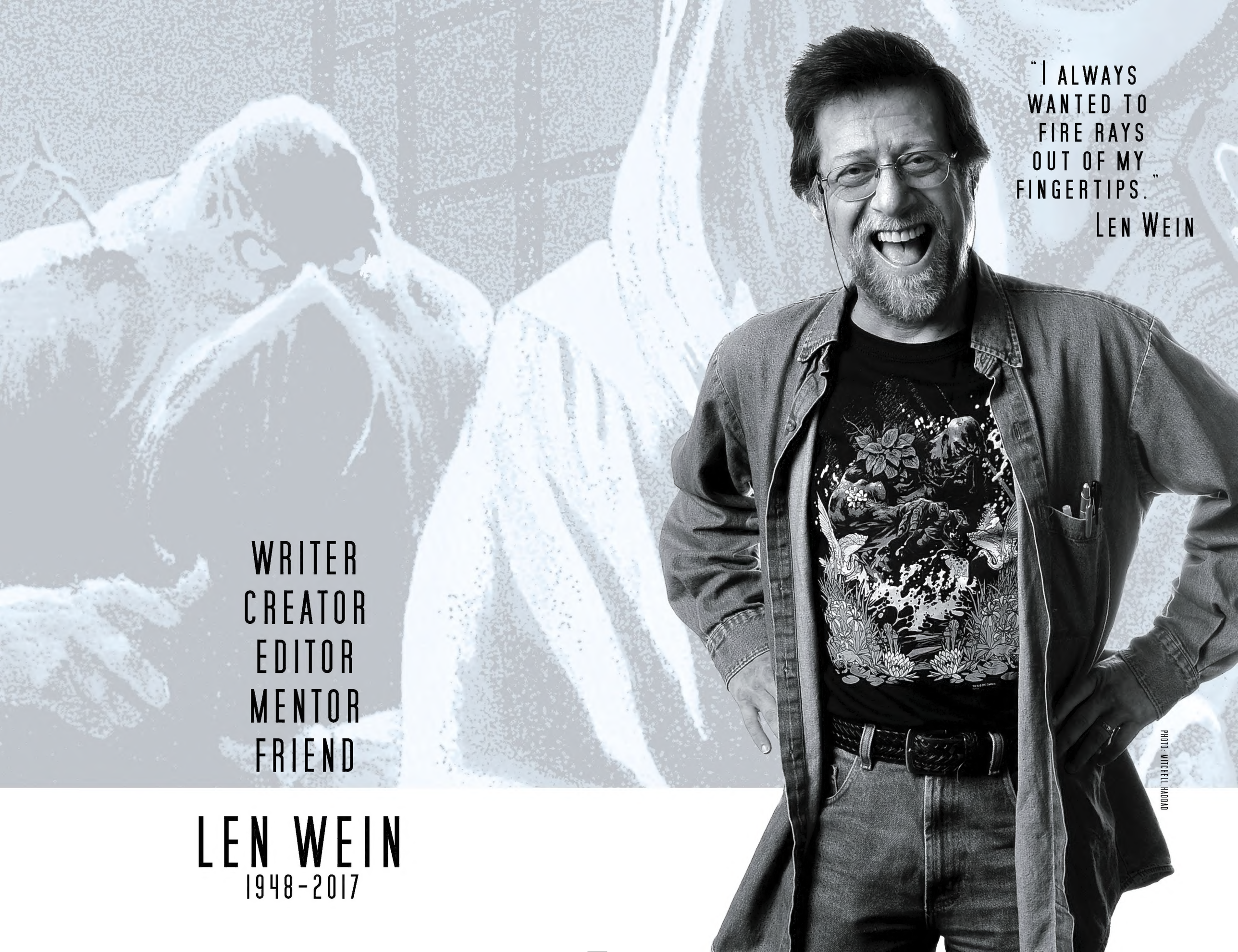
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE PILLS-- THE SIDE EFFECTS, DOSAGE, NOTHING. HOW DID HE EVEN ***KNOW*** ABOUT THEM?

IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?

PROBABLY-- NAPIER'S ONE TOUGH SON OF A BITCH.

BUT I'LL BE HONEST...

COMEDY
GOTHAM OR BUST
"...HE'S NOT THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT."
HOW MANY GCPD DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB? IT ONLY TAKES ONE BATMAN!
COMEDY NIGHT
FEATURING NEWCOMER JACK NAPIER
NAPIER BOMBS
WHY DON'T YOU LOVE ME?
QUINZEL
JACK "JOKER" NAPIER FALLS TO ACID
BAN
OF
GOT
J


"I ALWAYS WANTED TO FIRE RAYS OUT OF MY FINGERTIPS."
LEN WEIN
WRITER
CREATOR
EDITOR
MENTOR
FRIEND
LEN WEIN
1948-2017
PHOTO: MITCHELL HADDAD

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Written by New York Times best-selling author

WARREN ELLIS
JON DAVIS-HUNT

OCTOBER 2017

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DC ESSENTIAL
GRAPHIC NOVELS 2018

Looking for your next graphic novel to read? Not sure where to begin? Whether you are new to comics or a longtime fan looking to discover something new, we want to make it easy for you to jump into the legendary stories of the DC Universe and beyond.

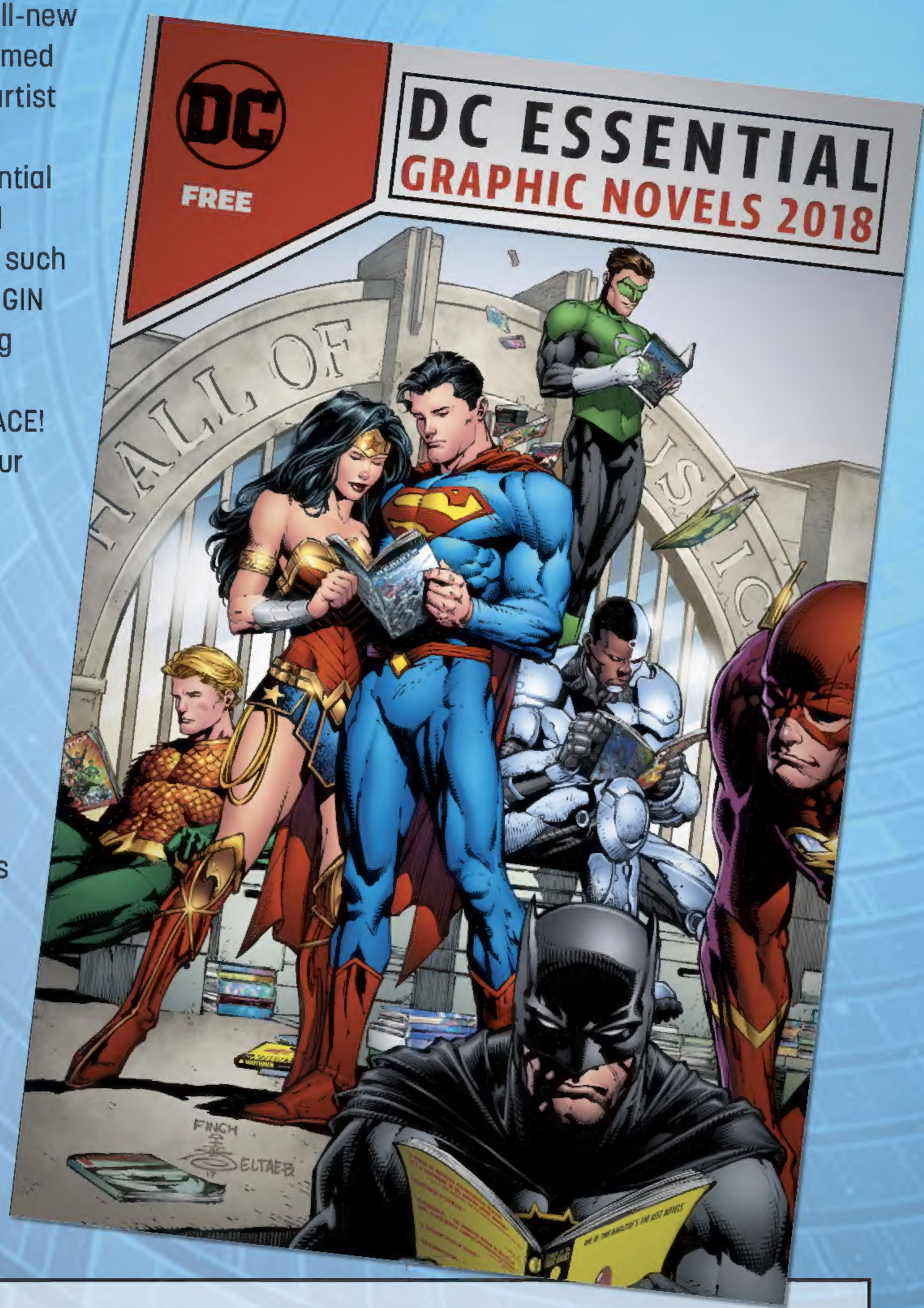
Just pick up the 2018 DC Essential Graphic Novels catalog. This FREE guide was created to introduce readers to our expansive selection of graphic novels and features a stunning cover by comics superstar David Finch, plus an all-new original JUSTICE LEAGUE story by acclaimed writer Robert Venditti and fan-favorite artist Scott Kolins.

The catalog spotlights the 25 essential graphic novels that every reader should check out, including legendary classics such as WATCHMEN and JUSTICE LEAGUE: ORIGIN as well as new must-read titles including BATMAN/THE FLASH: THE BUTTON and BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT – MASTER RACE!

There are sections dedicated to your favorite JUSTICE LEAGUE characters– Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, the Flash and Aquaman so you can get up to speed before the movie releases on November 17.

Looking for something more sophisticated for mature readers? You can find out about the best graphic novels from Vertigo–including Neil Gaiman's THE SANDMAN and Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon's PREACHER. Want to discover something new and different? Check out DC's Young Animal, the acclaimed pop-up imprint curated by iconic rock star Gerard Way.

We have something for everyone!



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